



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor

Robert L. Morgan
Executive Director

Lowell P. Braxton
Division Director

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
PO Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801
(801) 538-5340 telephone
(801) 359-3940 fax
(801) 538-7223 TTY
www.nr.utah.gov

February 12, 2003

TO: Minerals File

FROM: D. Wayne Hedberg, Permit Supervisor *DWH*

RE: Joint Agency/Operator Onsite Meeting, H.E. Davis Construction, Levan Gypsum Mine, M/023/016, Juab County, Utah

Date of Meeting: February 11, 2003

Purpose of Meeting: To discuss formal public concerns and permitting issues raised in response to the Division's tentative approval notice for H.E. Davis Construction's proposed mine plan expansion of the Levan Gypsum Mine.

Location of Meeting: Onsite at Levan Gypsum Mine, Chicken Creek Canyon, Levan, Utah

Time of Meeting: 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Participants: Kay Christofferson (President/CEO – HE Davis, Tony Christofferson (Manager, Property/Environmental – Clyde Companies Inc.), John Child (Mine Manager, HE Davis), Ralph Brooks (Levan City), Bob Garrett (Juab County Road Dept.), Carter Reed, Aaron Howe, Brian McClelland, Tom Llyod & Joel Nowak (USFS), Mary Ann Wright, Wayne Hedberg & Tom Munson (DOGM).

An onsite meeting was held on February 11, 2002 at the Levan Gypsum mine site. The meeting was scheduled to discuss recent public concerns raised during the 30-day public review period for HE Davis Construction's proposed mine plan expansion. The mine and agency personnel listed above, met at the base of the access road leading to the crushing and product stockpiling area of the Levan Gypsum mine site to go over the issues of concern.

Following introductions and signing of an attendance list, Wayne Hedberg opened the dialog with a general discussion of the meetings purpose and what we hoped to accomplish as a result of the meeting. A presentation of the principal public issues and concerns followed. The topics of concern included the following items:

1. Air Quality – (fugitive dust from the haul roads, blasting and trucks passing thru town)
2. Potential Impacts to surface & ground water resources – (blasting, truck haulage, sediment load)
3. Public Safety – (Chicken Creek Canyon mine access road, and 1st South truck traffic thru Levan)
4. Road Damage – (Chicken Creek Canyon mine access road, and 1st South thru Levan)
5. Noise – (mine blasting activities and truck traffic thru town)

Bob Garrett stated that the Juab County road department maintains the access road up Chicken Creek Canyon. He said it is located on privately owned property, but is considered a public road

by virtue of its continued use by the public through the years. Mr. Garrett indicated that they had tried to work out an agreement with the previous mine operator, Geneva Rock Products, a year or so ago, to assist them with the purchase and application of some reasonably priced recycled, roto-milled asphalt material. This material was placed along 1st South by the County Road Department, with the intention of extending it up canyon to the mine site locations to help reduce some of the air quality/dust concerns. No assistance from the mine operator was received, so the Canyon access road work was not done. Continued heavy haul truck usage along this resurfaced road has contributed to its gradual deterioration

The issue of public safety was a major concern expressed by the Division, particularly with reference to the lack of controlled access up and down Chicken Creek Canyon through the two mine locations (Chicken Creek and Levan Gypsum mine sites). The general public must share the same one lane road accessing the canyon with the mine operator's haul truck traffic. This road receives frequent use by the public wishing to access the Canyon for varied recreational purposes. Uncontrolled and unpredictable truck traffic creates an unnecessary and unacceptable hazard to the public's safety. Possible alternatives discussed included: widening the main access road to two passable lanes, or moving the truck traffic to the opposite side of the stream by upgrading and using the old abandoned plaster mill road corridor. HE Davis representatives indicated that they recently became aware of an agreement between the private land owner and the previous mine operator to refurbish and use this alternate road once the Chicken Creek mine operations became active.

The Division suggested that the operator implement some form of traffic control or restriction immediately to prevent further risk of accidental injury to the public and mine personnel. Mr. Childs indicated they only had one more shift of gypsum material to be hauled down from the upper Chicken Creek Mine site before they temporarily suspended mining activities at that site. He anticipated they would be done by Wednesday. Mr. Garret stated he would provide the operator with "Road Closure" signage that could be used Wednesday morning to temporarily restrict unauthorized public traffic during active truck haulage time periods. It was also suggested that the mine operator provide a flagman to manage canyon road access during times of active mine activity.

The operator was asked how much gypsum would be mined this year, and how many haul trucks travel to and from the mine on a weekly basis. Mr. Childs indicated that they had lost a couple contracts and would be reducing the amount of total production from ~100,000 tons/yr to 70-75,000 tons this year from the Levan Mine site. Mr. Christofferson said that they are required to pay royalties on ~60,000 tons annual production to the mineral lessee. Mr. Childs said that ~700 tons are shipped to the Leamington Cement Plant each week, which amounts to about 17 tandem truck loads per week. He said they load about 15 trucks per week to Inkam, Idaho, and 8-10 truckloads/day for 2 - 3 days/week are sent to Holnam's Devils Slide cement plant. The operator said that the Levan quarry is mined in the summer time, not in the winter.

When questioned about how often they blast at the Levan quarry, Mr. Childs stated they blasted five times last year and project a maximum of ten blasts per year for this quarry. He said they had last blasted in the Chicken Creek small mine quarry over a year ago. Typical blasting profile is to drill 4 inch diameter holes, 36 feet deep on seven foot centers. Approximately 1½ bags of prill is charged in each hole with one stick of dynamite to set off each charge. He estimated that a maximum of 120 holes have

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been detonated at once so far in the Levan quarry. He said they usually contract the blasting out to Sapp Drilling or Wolfe Drilling companies.

Discussions on sediment control measures centered around the lower mine access road areas that currently have little or no drainage control to prevent direct discharge into the adjacent stream. Routine road grading maintenance activities on the main canyon access/haul road were also discussed as a point of concern. Many areas of bermed snow and sediments along the outside edge of the road will be sources of direct sediment load to the stream during spring runoff. Mr. Childs said that they built the required sediment control pond that the proposed mine plan called for about two weeks ago. He said they would probably wait until the spring to install the proposed emergency overflow pipe. Division staff and Mr. Brooks examined this structure and the drainage ditch leading into it before leaving the mine site.

Division personnel asked Mr. Christofferson if he would be willing to sit down with local officials and Division staff to discuss possible options to resolve the public concerns. He said he would and a meeting date was established for Tuesday, February 18, 2003 in Levan to regroup and discuss these issues further. The Division also asked Tony Christofferson and John Childs to come into the Division offices on Thursday @1:00 p.m., February 13, 2003, to discuss the changes that will need to be made to amend the current large mine permit application.

Mr. Carter indicated that the Forest Service would need to review HE Davis's latest large mine plan proposal for the Levan Mine site and perform an Environmental Assessment before they would authorize any further development or expansion onto the Forest land.

jb

cc: Kay Christofferson, HE Davis Const.
Carter Reed, USFS – Manti-LaSal NF, Price
Bob Shephard – Levan Mayor
Bob Garrett – Juab Co. Road Dept.
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